

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for preparing coffee, comprising

- a holder (4) provided with an access opening (24) for placing a product to be extracted into said holder (4);
- a cover (34) for closing and releasing the access opening (24);
- clamping means (70) for pressing the cover (34) towards the holder (4) when the cover (34) closes off the access opening (24) of the holder (4); and
- closing means (80) for retaining the cover (34) and the clamping means (70) in position when the cover (34) closes off the access opening (24) of the holder (4), the closing means (80) being mechanically coupled to the clamping means (70) for bringing the clamping means (70) from a non-clamping condition into a clamping condition by manually operating the closing means (80) from a first defined position to a second defined position,

the clamping means (70) comprising a series of recesses (72) and a series of mating cams (74), wherein one of these series is statically mounted in a first housing part (2) to which the holder (4) is connected, and the other series is movably mounted in a second housing part (44) to which the cover (34) is connected.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clamping means (70) comprise at least one recess (72) and at least one mating cam (74), which can be brought into and out of engagement with each other by operating the closing means (80) between the first and the second position.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the cam and the mating recess (72) are located and dimensioned in such way that the cam can only engage the recess (72) when the cover (34) closes off the holder (4) properly.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the cam and the recess (72) are wedge-shaped, so that a clamping force can be gradually built up.

5. (CANCELED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 5 1, wherein ~~the~~ the series of recesses (72) and the series of mating cams (74) are evenly spaced along the periphery of the access opening (24) of the holder (4), at least in the clamped condition.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 5 1, wherein ~~the~~ the series of recesses (72) and the series of mating cams (74) are arranged in a triangle around the access opening (24) of the holder (4), wherein a base of the triangle faces a front side of the apparatus via which the holder (4) is accessible when the apparatus is opened.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 5 1, wherein the series of movably mounted clamping means (70) is mounted on a slider (75), which slider is movably connected to the second housing part (44) and mechanically coupled to the closing means (80).

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the slider is translatably mounted in the second housing part (44).

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the slider (75) is rotatably mounted in the second housing part (44).

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the cover (34) is connected to the slider (75), and operated together with said slider (75) and clamping means (70) by the closing means (80).

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the closing means (80) comprise a toggle joint lever assembly (85), including an angular shaped lever (82A) and a push rod (84), the lever being connected to the second housing part (44), for rotation around a first rotation axis, the lever furthermore being connected near one end to the push rod, for rotation around a second rotation axis, the push rod (84) being with its other end connected to the slider (75), for rotation around a third rotation axis, such that by operating the free end of the lever (82A) between a first position and a second position, the slider (75) is displaced between a first position wherein the clamping means (70) are not engaged and a second position wherein the clamping means (70) are engaged.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the closing means (80) comprise a spring (86), which returns the lever to one of its two positions.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the spring (86) extends between the second housing part (44) and the slider (75) or push rod (84), near the third rotation axis, for forming an overcenter snap link.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for preparing coffee, the apparatus comprising:

a first housing part mounting a holder, the holder for placing a product to be used in preparing the coffee;

a liftable second housing part ~~mounting~~ mounted to a cover, the cover for closing the holder and including an opening for delivering water into the holder when the cover is closing the holder; and

a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder, the clamping arrangement including:

a slider mounted ~~to~~ in the second housing part and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position;

a first cam provided on ~~one of the slider and the first housing part~~; and

a first cam receiving recess provided on ~~the other one of the slider and the first housing part not having the first cam~~ for receiving the first cam when the slider is moved to the clamping position.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus according to claim 15, further~~ An apparatus for preparing coffee, the apparatus comprising:

a first housing part mounting a holder, the holder for placing a product to be used in preparing the coffee;

a liftable second housing part mounted to a cover, the cover for closing the holder and including an opening for delivering water into the holder when the cover is closing the holder;
and

a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder, the clamping arrangement including:

a slider mounted in the second housing part and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position;

a first cam provided on one of the slider and the first housing part; and

a first cam receiving recess provided on the other one of the slider and the first housing part not having the first cam for receiving the first cam when the slider is moved to the clamping position;

second and third cams provided on the one of the slider and the first housing part having the first cam; and

second and third cam receiving recesses provided on the other one of the slider and the first housing part having the first cam receiving recess.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the first, second and third cams each comprises a wedge shape.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the cams are spaced in a triangular relationship and the cam receiving recesses are spaced in a corresponding triangular relationship.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the cams are provided on the slider and the cam recesses are provided on the first housing part.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the cams are provided on the first housing part and the cam recesses are provided on the slider.

21. (CANCELED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the first cam is provided on the first housing part and the first cam recess is provided on the slider.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a closing arrangement for operating the clamping arrangement between the non-clamping position and a clamping position.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the first cam comprises a wedge shape.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the closing arrangement comprises a toggle joint assembly.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein~~ An apparatus for preparing coffee, the apparatus comprising:

a first housing part mounting a holder, the holder for placing a product to be used in preparing the coffee;

a liftable second housing part mounted to a cover, the cover for closing the holder and including an opening for delivering water into the holder when the cover is closing the holder;

a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder, the clamping arrangement including:

a slider mounted in the second housing part and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position;

a first cam provided on one of the slider and the first housing part; and

a first cam receiving recess provided on the other one of the slider and the first housing part not having the first cam for receiving the first cam when the slider is moved to the clamping position;

a closing arrangement for operating the clamping arrangement between the non-clamping position and a clamping position, the closing arrangement comprising a toggle joint assembly, the toggle joint assembly ~~includes~~ including a lever connected to the second housing part and a push rod connecting the lever to the slider.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the push rod includes a slot.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the closing arrangement further comprises a spring having one end connected to one of the slider and the rod, and a second end connected to the second housing part.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for preparing coffee, the apparatus comprising:

a holder for placing a product to be used in preparing the coffee;

a housing part mounting the holder;

a liftable cover for closing the holder, the cover including an opening for delivering water into the holder when the cover is closing the holder; and

a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder, the clamping arrangement including a slider mounted over the cover and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position, a first cam provided on one of the slider and the housing part; and a first cam receiving recess provided on the other one of the slider and the housing part not having the first cam.

30. (CANCELED)

31. (CANCELED)

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~31~~ 29, wherein the first cam comprises a wedge shape.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~31~~ 29, further comprising:

second and third cams provided on the one of the slider and the housing part having the first cam; and

second and third cam receiving recesses provided on the other one of the slider and the housing part having the first cam receiving recess.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the first, second and third cams each comprises a wedge shape.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the cams are spaced in a triangular relationship and the cam receiving recesses are spaced in a corresponding triangular relationship.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the cams are provided on the slider and the cam recesses are provided on the housing part.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the cams are provided on the housing part and the cam recesses are provided on the slider.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~34~~ 29, wherein the first cam is provided on the slider and the first cam recess is provided on the housing part.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~34~~ 29, wherein the first cam is provided on the housing part and the first cam recess is provided on the slider.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising a closing arrangement for operating the clamping arrangement between the non-clamping position and a clamping position.

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein~~ An apparatus for preparing coffee, the apparatus comprising:

a holder for placing a product to be used in preparing the coffee;

a liftable cover for closing the holder, the cover including an opening for delivering water into the holder when the cover is closing the holder; and

a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder, the clamping arrangement including a slider mounted over the cover and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position

a closing arrangement for operating the clamping arrangement between the non-clamping position and a clamping position, the closing arrangement ~~comprises~~ comprising a toggle joint assembly.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the toggle joint assembly includes a lever and a push rod connecting the lever to the slider.

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~41~~ 42, wherein the push rod includes a slot.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the closing arrangement further comprises a spring having one end connected to one of the slider and the rod.

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A liftable housing part for a coffee preparation apparatus, the housing part comprising:

a cover for closing a coffee preparation product holder, the cover including an opening for delivering water into the holder when the cover is closing the holder; and

a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder, the clamping arrangement including a slider mounted over the cover and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position, a first cam provided on one of the slider and a housing part of the coffee preparation apparatus, and a first cam receiving recess provided on the other one of the slider and the housing part of the coffee preparation apparatus not having the first cam.

46. (CANCELED)

47. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The liftable housing part according to claim 46 45, wherein the first cam comprises a wedge shape.

48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The liftable housing part according to claim 46 45, further comprising:

second and third cams provided on the one of the slider and the housing part of the coffee preparation apparatus having the first cam; and

second and third cam receiving recesses provided on the other one of the slider and the housing part of the coffee preparation apparatus having the first cam receiving recess.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The liftable housing part according to claim 48, wherein the first, second and third cams each comprises a wedge shape.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The liftable housing part according to claim 48, wherein the cams are spaced in a triangular relationship and the cam receiving recesses are spaced in a corresponding triangular relationship.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The liftable housing part according to claim 48, wherein the cams are provided on the slider and the cam recesses are provided on the housing part of the coffee preparation apparatus.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The liftable housing part according to claim 48, wherein the cams are provided on the housing part of the coffee preparation apparatus and the cam recesses are provided on the slider.

53. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The liftable housing part according to claim 46 45, wherein the first cam is provided on the slider and the first cam recess is provided on the housing part of the coffee preparation apparatus.

54. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The liftable housing part according to claim 46 45, wherein the first cam is provided on the housing part of the coffee preparation apparatus and the first cam recess is provided on the slider.

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The liftable housing part according to claim 45, further comprising a closing arrangement for operating the clamping arrangement between the non-clamping position and a clamping position.

56. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The liftable housing part according to claim 55, wherein A~~
liftable housing part for a coffee preparation apparatus, the housing part comprising:

a cover for closing a coffee preparation product holder, the cover including an opening for delivering water into the holder when the cover is closing the holder;

a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder, the clamping arrangement including a slider mounted over the cover and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position; and

a closing arrangement for operating the clamping arrangement between the non-clamping position and a clamping position, the closing arrangement ~~comprises~~ comprising a toggle joint assembly.

57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The liftable housing part according to claim 56, wherein the toggle joint assembly includes a lever and a push rod connecting the lever to the slider.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The liftable housing part according to claim 57, wherein the push rod includes a slot.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The liftable housing part according to claim 57, wherein the closing arrangement further comprises a spring having one end connected to one of the slider and the rod and a second end connected to the liftable housing part.

60. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for ensuring a liquid seal between a liftable cover of a coffee preparation device and a holder of the coffee preparation device that holds a product for preparing coffee, the apparatus comprising a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder to effect the liquid seal, the clamping arrangement including a slider mounted over the cover and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position, a first cam provided on one of the slider and a housing part of the coffee preparation device, and a first cam receiving recess provided on the other one of the slider and the housing part of the coffee preparation device not having the first cam.

61. (CANCELED)

62. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~61~~ 60, wherein the first cam comprises a wedge shape.

63. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~61~~ 60, further comprising:

second and third cams provided on the one of the slider and the housing part of the coffee preparation device having the first cam; and

second and third cam receiving recesses provided on the other one of the slider and the housing part of the coffee preparation device having the first cam receiving recess.

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the first, second and third cams each comprises a wedge shape.

65. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the cams are spaced in a triangular relationship and the cam receiving recesses are spaced in a corresponding triangular relationship.

66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the cams are provided on the slider and the cam recesses are provided on the housing part of the coffee preparation device.

67. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein the cams are provided on the housing part of the coffee preparation device and the cam recesses are provided on the slider.

68. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~64~~ 60, wherein the first cam is provided on the slider and the first cam recess is provided on the housing part of the coffee preparation device.

69. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~64~~ 60, wherein the first cam is provided on the housing part of the coffee preparation device and the first cam recess is provided on the slider.

70. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 60, further comprising a closing arrangement for operating the clamping arrangement between the non-clamping position and a clamping position.

71. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus according to claim 70, wherein~~ An apparatus for ensuring a liquid seal between a liftable cover of a coffee preparation device and a holder of the coffee preparation device that holds a product for preparing coffee, the apparatus comprising:
a clamping arrangement for pressing the cover against the holder to effect the liquid seal,
the clamping arrangement comprising a slider mounted over the cover and slidably moveable between a non-clamping position and a clamping position; and
a closing arrangement for operating the clamping arrangement between the non-clamping position and a clamping position, the closing arrangement ~~comprises~~ comprising a toggle joint assembly.

72. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 71, wherein the toggle joint assembly includes a lever and a push rod connecting the lever to the slider.

73. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 71, wherein the push rod includes a slot.

74. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the closing arrangement further comprises a spring having one end connected to one of the slider and the rod and a second end connected to a liftable housing part of the coffee preparation device.